

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A thermoplastic molded septic tank, comprising:

a container, wherein the container includes an upper chamber moldably connectable to a lower chamber;

one or more substantially circular first ports formed with an opening in the upper chamber;

one or more substantially circular hollow second ports formed with an opening in the lower chamber, wherein the size of the opening formed in the second ports is less than the size of the opening formed in the first ports; and

a plurality of molded through tapered columns integrally engaged with the first ports and second ports.
2. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for attaching the opposing ends of the plurality of molded through tapered columns to the first ports and to the second ports.
3. (cancelled)
4. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic material is polyethylene.
5. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, further comprising means for securing the upper chamber to the lower chamber.

6. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, wherein the range of thickness of the upper chamber and the lower chamber is between 0.25 inch and 0.35 inch.
7. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, wherein the range of thickness of the upper chamber and the lower chamber is between 0.35 inch and 0.50 inch.
8. A thermoplastic molded tank as recited in claim 1, wherein the range of thickness of the plurality of molded through tapered columns is between 0.1250 inch and 0.2500 inch.
- 9-17. (cancelled)
18. A septic tank, comprising:
 - a container formed with a wall having an interior surface and an exterior surface;
 - a plurality of tapered hollow columns having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the distal end is dimensionally smaller than the proximal end;
 - a plurality of hollow substantially opposing ports formed with an opening through the wall; and
 - means for integrally connecting the distal end and the proximal end of the plurality of tapered hollow columns to the plurality of substantially opposing ports.
19. A septic tank as recited in claim 18, wherein the septic tank is formed of thermoplastic material.
20. (cancelled)

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

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Title: THERMOPLASTIC MOLDED TANK

21. (currently amended) A septic tank as recited in claim 19 ~~claim 20~~, wherein the integrally connecting means includes molding the container, the at least one tapered hollow column, and the plurality of hollow substantially opposing ports as a unitary body.
22. A septic tank as recited in claim 20, further comprising means for accessing the container.